



Michael F. Easley
Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
Secretary, DENR

MEDOC TAKING BIG STRIDES

By CHARLIE PEEK
Public Information Officer

HOLLISTER – Community leaders and the staff of Medoc Mountain State Park joined Dec. 14 to formally dedicate new park facilities.

Ribbons were cut on a new campground and a 2,935-square-foot visitor's center that holds administrative offices, a small exhibit hall, a conference room and restrooms. The park improvements were funded with proceeds from a 1993 park bond referendum.

"To come back now, it's gratifying to see how far we as an agency and as a staff, along with the community, have been able to come," said Phil McKnelly, director of the NC Division of Parks and Recreation.

Park staffers have been in the new offices for several months, but Superintendent Lyndon Sutton said the park advisory committee had never had the opportunity to hold a ceremony to thank the division and the local community for its support.

McKnelly said that the improvements at the park are the direct result of community involvement including local leaders having supported the bond issue and telling their legislators what is needed at the parks. That eventually resulted in the establishment of the Park and Recreation Trust Fund which will continue to supply funds for capital improvements, he said.



MEDOC MOUNTAIN SUPERINTENDENT LYNDON SUTTON, CENTER, AND NORTH DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN TILLOTSON, RIGHT, LEAD VISITORS ON A TOUR OF THE NEW CAMPGROUND.

"It is those park advisory committees and people in the local community that are actually the ones that make things happen," he said.

Building the visitor's center/park office on SR 1322 just east of Hollister essentially relocates the park's main entrance from SR 1002 where park officials had used a former residence as an office and a second former residence as a maintenance shop. Sutton said that the park plans during 2002 to construct a footbridge across Little

Fishing Creek that will ultimately tie together trail systems to the east and west of the creek.

Funds for the bridge were allocated in October by the Park and Recreation Authority.

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UP CLOSE & "PERSONNEL"

After more than 12 years of service at the same state recreation area, most rangers would be ready for a change — but not *Bryan Dowdy*, the new park superintendent at Falls Lake State Recreation Area.

While in college, Dowdy worked as a seasonal for Jordan Lake State Recreation Area for

one summer before moving to Falls Lake for seasonal work the next two summers. After he graduated, Dowdy was hired at Falls Lake. He's stayed there ever since, advancing through the ranks.

"Falls Lake is in my blood," Dowdy explained.

Dowdy said that there were many attractive aspects to

Falls Lake, from its resource management program to its interpretation and education opportunities, from the excitement of working in a large reservoir to its proximity to Raleigh. He also said he enjoys working with the different agencies involved at the reservoir.

Dowdy's commitment to the lake shows in the awards he has received throughout his employment. In 1993 the US Army Corps of Engineers awarded him for the volume of volunteer work he completed. And, in 1997 he was given a special achievement award from the NC Division of Parks and Recreation for filling in at the recreation area's Superintendent I position for 1 1/2 years while Edward Farr, Falls Lake superintendent at that time, served as acting superintendent at William B. Umstead State Park. Dowdy also is one of the division's firearms instructors and is a burn boss.

Dowdy said that he owed a lot to the park's former superintendents, Farr and David Kellam. He said that now, as the recreation area's superintendent, he plans on keeping Falls Lake running smoothly.

"I think Falls Lake has always been one of the parks that has set the standard for the division, and I'd like to keep that going on," he said.

In an e-mail sent to division staff announcing his promotion, Susan Tillotson, North District Superintendent, said that Dowdy "brings to this position a great deal of direct knowledge and understanding of the complexities and challenges of managing Falls Lake State Recreation Area."



Fragile; handle with care!

North District Superintendent Susan Tillotson volunteers her services as a victim at first responder training while Matt Cleary, general utility worker; Davis Clay, maintenance mechanic; Scott Bolden, park ranger and Stanley Dunston, park ranger test their rescue skills. The training was held in November 16 at William B. Umstead State Park.



McCALL IS DENR PERSONNEL VETERAN

She may be new to the Division of Parks and Recreation, but she's no stranger to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Teresa McCall, the parks system's new personnel officer, moved into her office on the seventh floor of the Archdale Building Dec. 17. But, McCall has been on different floors of the building for the last 13 years, working in human resources in what is now the Division of Air Quality.

"Being in the department for 13 years, I've seen a lot of the divisions grow," McCall said. "Plus, this division has always been important to me. When you stand back and look at the big picture (of DENR), you see so much from the natural resources side."

McCall's career in human resources began in 1984 when she worked with a private security company. A year later, she moved to state government and worked for 3 1/2 years for the Division of Facility Services in the Department of Health and Human Services. She came to DENR in Octo-



ber, 1988, and worked for the Division of Environmental Management. In 1996 when the division split due to its size, she remained with the Division of Air Quality.

McCall said she was attracted to the position with the parks system partly because of the division's integral role in the mission of the department and because she had heard and seen good things about the division and its personnel. She also said that she looked forward to helping parks staff with human resources issues.

"I enjoy what I do," she said. "I like helping people in so many areas — helping the managers, following the mission of the department, playing a real role in getting good people to come in."

"I'm here as a resource to all employees and managers and to help with any issue — whether it's payroll, whether it's positioning, whether it's hiring, or structure."

McCall was born and raised on a farm in Durham County. Growing up, she frequented William B. Umstead State Park, where she played hide-and-seek with friends, enjoyed family picnics and went on hikes. She now lives in Raleigh and has two sons, ages 4 and 6.

"I'm glad to be here," she said. "I look forward to working with everybody and trying to get my toe a little warm in Judy Warren's shoes."

Warren was the division's former personnel officer who retired Nov. 30 after 37 years of service with the division.

MEDOC

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Once the bridge is complete, the more remote park entrance on SR 1002 will be closed, making the park more secure, he said.

Related improvements at the park include a 34-site campground with 12 sites offering electric hookups, a superintendent's residence, a parking area, a 1,752-square-foot maintenance shop, a warehouse and a washhouse in the campground.

Architect for the project was The East Group of Greenville, and Cade Construction Inc. of Youngsville was general contractor.

Medoc Mountain State Park was established in 1972 on a 2,300-acre tract, part of which was used since the 1920s as a Boy Scouts of America camp. The 325-foot-high ridge was owned in the 1800s by Sidney Weller, a noted farmer and educa-



ASHLEY CLAYTON SMITH OF THE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE CUTS RIBBON ON VISITOR'S CENTER/PARK OFFICE.

tor, who introduced grape cultivation and winemaking to the region.

POSSUM PETE MOVES ONTO WEBSITE

By TAMARA WARD
Publications Coordinator

Have you visited Possum Pete's den yet? Possum Pete is the critter wearing the ranger hat on the division's new kids website, www.ncsparks.net/kids.html.

With more and more children gaining access to the internet, both from home and school computers, the site is to be an innovative and fun way for children to learn about the parks system, opportunities the division offers for children and related parks topics.

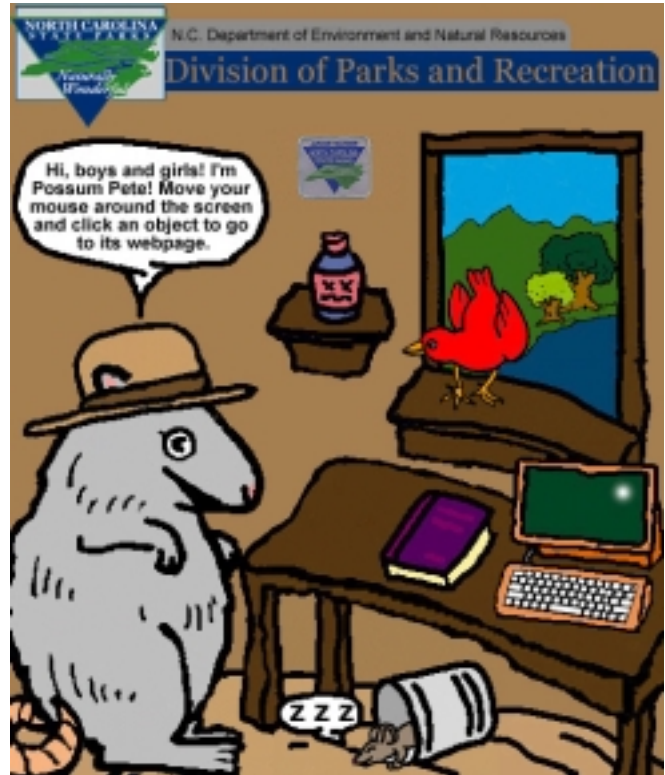
"The internet is a vital tool for us to reach the public, and kids are a vital audience for state parks," said Charlie Peek, the division's public information officer. "Young people who have a good experience in the parks and with the parks system usually become our friends for life."

"Our parks are always finding creative ways to educate and kindle young people's interest in the parks and in natural resources. This kids page is meant to be an extension of those efforts," he said.

When users log onto the kids site, they are welcomed to Possum Pete's den, a cartoon interface where users click on objects inside the den to find other pages on the website. Possum Pete, who is standing to the side of the page, informs users about where each linked object leads.

From the homepage den, users can link to six different options:

- By clicking on a bird, users go to a page where they play a game to guess which animal made a certain track. Information about each animal, which parks it occupies, and pictures of the animal introduce users to park wildlife.
- By clicking on a book, users can learn an outdoor skill such as how to properly build a fire, forecast weather by studying the clouds, or find out what to do if they become lost.
- By clicking on a junior ranger badge hanging from Possum Pete's wall, users visit a page that introduces the division's junior ranger program. From the page, kids can sample junior ranger activities



that are available in some parks.

- By clicking on a mouse that runs out of a can, users visit a page with close-up images of cool activities available in state parks. By clicking on an activity's close-up image, users go to another page to view the full-scale image and find out more about the activity.
- By clicking on a jug, users visit a page to learn about 12 dangerous objects in state parks — dogs off their leashes, litter, sun poisoning, poison ivy and more.
- By clicking on a computer, users can e-mail questions to Possum Pete or read Possum Pete's answers to questions that children have already sent.

Links from the kids site to the division's regular site are also provided, so users can quickly search the division's online calendar for programs at state parks, search a database to find plants and animals in state parks, or explore other areas of the site.

As with the entire division website, the kids website will constantly undergo changes and additions. If you have comments, suggestions or ideas, contact Tamara Ward at tamara.ward@ncmail.net. Or, send an e-mail to Possum Pete.

Division of Parks and Recreation Monthly Attendance Report

					% CHANGE	
	NOVEMBER	TOTAL YTD	NOVEMBER	TOTAL YTD	(20002001)	
DISTRICT/PARK	2001	NOV. 2001	2000	NOV. 2000	NOV.	YTD
EAST DISTRICT						
Cliffs of the Neuse	6,895	128,333	4,114	118,447	68%	8%
Fort Macon	64,670	1,219,236	54,296	1,232,542	19%	-1%
Goose Creek	9,697	110,328	6,366	112,955	52%	-2%
Hammocks Beach	11,205	188,896	6,393	176,295	75%	7%
Jockey's Ridge	41,257	971,966	35,904	1,022,662	15%	-5%
Merchants Millpond	6,072	80,627	6,216	83,478	-2%	-3%
Pettigrew	4,810	85,060	4,254	73,772	13%	15%
SUBTOTAL	144,606	2,784,446	117,543	2,820,151	23%	-1%
NORTH DISTRICT						
Eno River	23,188	301,396	18,760	261,385	24%	15%
Occoneechee Mountain	2,680	33,689	2,230	27,826	20%	21%
Falls Lake	37,099	1,127,177	29,531	710,044	26%	59%
Hanging Rock	20,768	391,216	15,800	389,799	31%	0%
Kerr Lake	60,204	1,745,532	47,336	1,422,296	27%	23%
Medoc Mountain	4,558	66,509	3,068	72,726	49%	-9%
Pilot Mountain	31,015	410,291	23,902	368,060	30%	11%
William B. Umstead	34,060	376,622	27,168	384,419	25%	-2%
SUBTOTAL	213,572	4,452,432	167,795	3,636,555	27%	22%
SOUTH DISTRICT						
Boones Cave	3,498	32,216	3,886	34,485	-10%	-7%
Carolina Beach	15,912	247,072	11,761	217,019	35%	14%
Fort Fisher	38,866	638,526	27,898	504,159	39%	27%
Jones Lake	4,360	112,458	5,248	109,318	-17%	3%
Jordan Lake	57,880	1,202,728	32,032	1,170,516	81%	3%
Lake Waccamaw	5,056	92,498	4,652	66,815	9%	38%
Lumber River	4,610	49,891	4,025	40,732	15%	22%
Morrow Mountain	33,060	483,260	24,920	375,300	33%	29%
Raven Rock	10,947	114,785	8,159	108,119	34%	6%
Singletary Lake	604	18,386	824	15,483	-27%	19%
Weymouth Woods	2,710	25,505	1,848	24,993	47%	2%
SUBTOTAL	177,503	3,017,325	125,253	2,666,939	42%	13%
WEST DISTRICT						
Crowder's Mountain	27,228	279,855	17,213	288,557	58%	-3%
Gorges	8,174	95,788	3,428	85,326	138%	12%
Lake James	11,425	236,492	10,066	221,856	14%	7%
Lake Norman	15,595	244,153	9,960	234,743	57%	4%
Mount Jefferson	6,631	88,920	4,920	88,545	35%	0%
Mount Mitchell	30,255	540,974	15,634	555,409	94%	-3%
New River	6,092	125,664	5,456	127,991	12%	-2%
South Mountains	12,312	177,884	9,612	152,728	28%	16%
Stone Mountain	50,652	503,914	38,100	659,114	33%	-24%
SUBTOTAL	168,364	2,293,644	114,389	2,414,269	47%	-5%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	704,045	12,547,847	524,980	11,537,914	34%	9%

IN TRIBUTE . . .

BILL WALTER ROSS **1953 - 2001**



Bill (Bimbo) W. Ross of Elizabethtown, North Carolina, the son of Mrs. Leon Ross of Wilmington, North Carolina and the late Mr. Eugene Ross, answered his call to be with the Lord on Wednesday morning, November 14, 2001 at The Hospice Care Center.

Bill was born on April 26, 1953 in Wilmington and reared in the Seabreeze Community. He was the seventh of eight children.

He accepted Christ in 1996. Bill was a member of Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church and served as a Trustee.

Bill graduated from J.T. Hoggard High School in 1973. He started his career with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Division of Parks and Recreation) in 1979 as a Park Ranger at Caro-

lina Beach State Park. In January, 1998 he received a promotion from Park Ranger 2 to Park Superintendent I of Jones Lake State Park in Elizabethtown, NC.

He was preceded in death by his son Bill in February, 2001. He leaves to cherish his memories: three beautiful children, Deborah Brown (Matthew), Delshida Ross and Branden Ross; two grandsons, Matthew Jr. and Bill; his mother, Mrs. Leon Ross of Wilmington; four brothers, Arthur (Lillian), Randolph (Vonzenia), Andrew (Sheila), Irvin (Gail), all of Wilmington; three sisters, Sarah Taylor (Donovan) of Wilmington, Helen Crenshaw of Baltimore, MD and Lonice Wilson (Jackie) of Wilmington; one uncle, Walter Wiggins Jr. (Ethel), and one aunt, Agnes Spicer; special nephews and nieces, many cousins and friends.

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:



- to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;
- to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;
- and
- to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

The Steward

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